
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senator O'Ban

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 TO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON STATE
2 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
3 TRANSPORTATION:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
6 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, Thousands of United States military veterans live and
8 work near and travel through the South Sound region on Interstate 5
9 (I-5) by the Nisqually River on its northbound and southbound
10 bridges; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Veterans
12 Affairs, 593,350 veterans currently reside in Washington State; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of
14 America, there are 2.4 million veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan
15 conflicts nationwide; and

16 WHEREAS, Veterans from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Bangor
17 Sub Base, Bremerton Naval Station, and others served honorably in the
18 Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, some of whom died or were injured
19 during the 14 to 16 years of on-going operations there; and

20 WHEREAS, The northbound and southbound bridges over the Nisqually
21 River on I-5 are currently unnamed; and

1 WHEREAS, Signage on these bridges would be a visible display of
2 honor and gratitude for active duty, former, and retired veterans of
3 the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and their families; and

4 WHEREAS, We recognize that these veterans protected our freedom
5 with their duty, honor, and selfless service; and

6 WHEREAS, This signage would also serve as a reminder to motorists
7 of the sacrifices made by service members of the Army, Navy, Marine
8 Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard assigned to various military bases
9 worldwide and in the Evergreen State; and

10 WHEREAS, This recognition is merely a small way of saying, "Thank
11 you for your service";

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
13 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to
14 name the northbound I-5 bridge over the Nisqually River, the
15 "Afghanistan Veterans Bridge," and the southbound I-5 bridge over the
16 Nisqually River, the "Iraq Veterans Bridge," with permanent signage
17 affixed to the bridges.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Secretary of Transportation, the Washington State
20 Transportation Commission, and the Washington State Department of
21 Transportation.

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